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EVENTS

Winchester church to hold Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 11, 2024 . 2:00 PM — 2 min read

First Congregational Church will hold its annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 15 at 10 a.m.
COURTESY PHOTO/FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The following was submitted by the First Congregational Church:

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On Sunday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m., the First Congregational Church, 21 Church St., will hold its annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, a beloved tradition from England wherein God's word is proclaimed and contemplated in a special sequence of readings, prayers, choral anthems and congregational carols and hymns.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is most affectionately connected to King's College in Cambridge, England, where it has graced the Chapel on Christmas Eve since 1918. The service has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel.

It is estimated that today there are millions of listeners worldwide. The service has since been adapted and used by churches and schools all over the world.

In the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, we weave together scripture, poetry and song, calling on readers and musicians from all ages and stages, and trace a spiritual progression that carries us from prophecy to fulfillment, from Old Testament foretelling to New Testament celebration of the birth of Christ.

This year, the Lessons and Carols service highlights the music and poetic writings of Hildegard von Bingen, also known as the Sibyl of the Rhine, a German Benedictine abbess and polymath active as a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, visionary, and as a medical writer and practitioner during the High Middle Ages. Hildegard's Chants for the Blessed Virgin Mary beautifully reflect Mary's journey to becoming the mother of Christ.

To guide us in this mysterious and stunning music is Justina Golden, a chant specialist, performer, teacher, and philosopher in her own right.

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The choir will offer two large contemporary anthems, based on Hildegard's chant tunes and texts. The Lessons (readings) will include both scripture and writing excerpts from Hildegard herself.

In this sacred and mysterious context, attendees will joyfully celebrate the season of Advent.

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media ma… the cost of ambition. This i…

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March 4, 2026

is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence hosting 23rd Trivia Bee

Winchester's brightest fifth graders and adults will gather soon to compete in a fierce trivia competition that will raise money for Winchester schools. The Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence (WFEE), a nonprofit that provides grants for Winchester's public schools, will host its 23rd annual trivia bee March 11

TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY | CORRESPONDENT

February 24, 2026

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NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

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